

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 507

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to express our deepest condolences to the people of the State of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the people of Tennessee were greatly saddened by the tragic loss of life and the devastation wrought on our sister state of Louisiana by Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, the history of our two states, Tennessee and Louisiana, had been intertwined since before our American nation was formed when explorers, frontiersmen, and traders traversed the Natchez Trace and the Mississippi River from the wilderness of Tennessee down to New Orleans, the blossoming center of trade that would rapidly become the economic engine of the South; and

WHEREAS, in time of war, hundreds of Tennesseans joined General Andrew Jackson to defend Louisiana against the British Army in the War of 1812; the Battle of New Orleans was a defining moment in our nation's history that exemplified the great resolve of the American people to unite and stand together; and

WHEREAS, we, the Tennesseans of today, pledge to our sister state of Louisiana that we will stand by you once again, offering our services and assistance to those of your citizens who have found shelter inside our borders, opening our schools and universities to over 4,000 of your children and young adults so that they may continue their education, and extending healthcare and medical treatment to those who have need; and

WHEREAS, along with fellow Americans, a multitude of Tennesseans have contributed financial aid and material goods in the relief effort, while also sending manpower, equipment, and resources to aid in the reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, both Tennessee and Louisiana have been blessed by a bounty of legendary musical talents, and the country and blues musicians of Nashville and Memphis have reached out with benefit performances and tributes to the great jazz musicians of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, in a display of bravery and spirit, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, with support from the Nashville Symphony, performed for the first time after the tragedy in Nashville on October 4, 2005, showcasing a magical, musical camaraderie; and

WHEREAS, every Tennessean who has visited your beautiful state and enjoyed the warm, endearing charm of your citizens knows that Louisiana and the City of New Orleans will rise gloriously, like the mythological Phoenix from the ashes, retaking its proper place as a magical jewel in the great American tapestry; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we offer our deepest condolences to the people of Louisiana on their devastating losses from Hurricane Katrina, extend our hand of friendship and aid to our sister state in time of need, and look forward to the day when our citizens can join together on the streets of the French Quarter in New Orleans and say "Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler!".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Governor Kathleen Blanco of the State of Louisiana with this final clause omitted from such copy.